

the gull

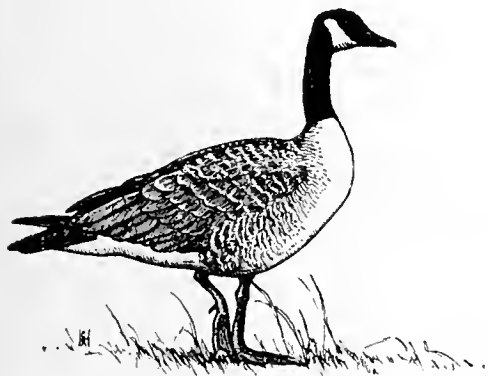
Volume 56

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Number 9

Covel's Conservation Corner



Expo 74—Man and His Environment—should leave indelible impressions on all who saw it. Countries across the globe competed to impress the visitor with their efforts and successes in combating pollution and waste, saving wildlife and wild places, using resources wisely, and improving the climate of the urban dweller.

Under the giant canopy of the four-acre U.S. Pavilion were: a colossal "Mt. Trashmore" of reusable

wastes, a gushing composite tub, sink and bowl fountain, motormanica carousel, graphic posters, a "baby bomb" ferris wheel showing the insatiable demands each new human makes on our shrinking resources, and much, much more. The cinerama in an 800-seat theatre was "enviro-climatic," but the waiting lines were endless.

It was worth suffering through the long, hot lineups to see the U.S.S.R. Pavilion — even with its stuffy interior. Competent guides described the model cities in Siberia, vast game preserves and planning in use of resources. Japan presented its nearly insurmountable pollution problems quite frankly but with optimism they would be conquered. Most of the national pavilions passed out brochures, some quite lavish, but Uncle Sam offered none — a real paper saving example!

The Vanishing Animal Exhibit was a cooperative venture of many leading conservation organizations including National Audubon and at least three Western zoos which loaned live specimens. The overhead slide sequence on endangered North American species was excellent. Of

course, there was a strong pitch against the current abuses of whaling, which we hope reached our Japanese and Soviet Expo partners. We wonder how Japan dares plan its big "Oceanic Fair" for 1975 with the growing boycott over the whaling issue facing its trade and tourism.

The ways of a federal bureaucracy such as the National Park Service are often unfathomable and contradictory. On one hand, they seem ready to meet the demands of wilderness purists to remove lodges, cabins, and even campgrounds and trail shelters from prime scenic areas. This is a policy justified in some places, but in others it penalizes the middle-aged to elderly and the handicapped citizen who cannot hike, bike, or camp. On the other hand, they permitted (or couldn't it be prevented?) the Yosemite Park and Curry Company to sell out to a Hollywood promotion outfit which has announced plans to phase out the cheaper cabins, replace them with expensive accommodations, and to make Yosemite Valley a convention center. Yosemite needs conventions as much as Tahoe needs new gambling casinos! Hearings on the Yosemite Master Plan will be held in the Bay Area in October. For comments or information contact: Leslies Arnburger, Superintendent, P.O. Box 577, Yosemite National Park, CA 95389.

Following the decision of the Alameda County Board of Supervisors to grant Mr. Apperson a conditional use permit for his guest ranch, the Sierra Club has announced it will take legal action against the project. There have been serious doubts raised over the accuracy of the environmental impact statements submitted in the Apperson Ranch applications.

Although I am not an admirer of Secretary of Agriculture Earl L. Butz and I certainly do not subscribe to his suggestion that we dispose of half our dogs, cats, and horses, I think it is time for conscientious Americans to consider reducing their excess pet populations. Why do so many people who decry the waste of "The Establishment" surround themselves with large canines who consume precious meats? And as for keeping a covey of cats with tuna prices skyrocketing! Perhaps "Zero Population" should be applied to pets, too.

—PAUL COVEL, *Conservation Chairman*

NEWS FROM AUDUBON CANYON RANCH

ACR is most grateful for the generous bequest from Mabel T. Carley of Oakland which has been added to the Endowment Fund. This vital fund must be built up to an amount great enough to provide operating funds—for salaries, maintenance, etc.—so as to free the ranch from its dependence upon the generosity of its friends. What ACR has acquired must be protected and its use by the public supervised. The money for this must come from invested endowment. We sincerely ask all our friends to make provisions in their wills to help pay for these inevitable, unromantic, on-going expenses.

Audubon Canyon Ranch is grateful to the Contra Costa Hills Club for the generous contribution of its Conservation Committee to ACR's Land Acquisition Fund.

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

A representative of the Environmental Defense Fund will talk about flood planning at the October general membership meeting. An accompanying film, titled "Planning for Floods," is intended for all those concerned with preserving natural rivers as well as protecting life and property from flooding. The film's narrator, Hugh Downs, states, "Since 1923, the federal government has spent \$24,000,000 on flood control structures with all indications of increasing expenditures in the future. If the flood policy were effective, we would expect flood losses to begin decreasing. Instead, they are increasing."

The Massachusetts Audubon Society assisted with the production of this film.

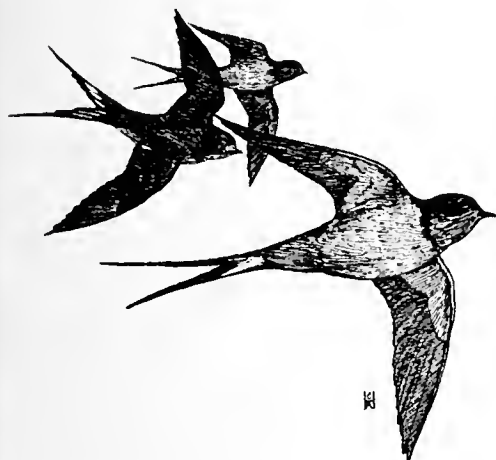
The date: **Thursday, October 10, 1974.** The time: **7:30 P.M.** The place: **The First Unitarian Church,** Franklin and Geary Streets, San Francisco.

Reminder: First Wildlife Film will be **Tuesday, October 15.** See September *Gull* for details.

WANTED: An Assistant Editor for the *Gull* to share general editorial responsibilities. Should have modest typing skill and be able to write well. Remuneration: Editing experience and the opportunity to actively participate in GGAS affairs.

Editor's Comment

THE FALL EQUINOX



The signs have been with us for several weeks now—in the sky, in the plants and animals, and in the earth itself. The days are growing noticeably shorter. Decreasing fog and weakening westerly winds tell us that the Pacific High, the off-shore high pressure affecting our weather, is beginning to move south with the sun. Often the sky is decorated with the delicate, ice-crystal traceries of cirrus clouds. Rains brewing in the storm cauldrons of the North Pacific will soon move toward our coast and the long dry season will be over.

For lowland California, fall brings a resurgence of life. Shorebirds are reclaiming the mudflats around the Bay. Grebes, loons, and ducks are seen again on the open water. The flyways are alive with wings and voices. From the Sierra, three of our sparrows return to take up winter

residence—the fox sparrow, the white-crowned sparrow, and golden-crowned sparrow whose sweet, plaintive song will brighten our days. The hermit thrush will be back too though he will have left his glorious song in the cool forests of the High Sierra.

Native plants, which have endured the drought by remaining dormant, will come to life with the first rains. Dry tassles on the manzanita will become new leaves and flowers. Grass seeds lying dormant in the dry, cracked earth will stir and send up new blades.

Insects seem more active in the closing days of summer. Everywhere are webs, from single gossamer strands to the intricate constructions of the orb weavers. Monarch butterflies drift through gardens winging their erratic way to their ancestral wintering grounds in the groves along the California coast. Yellow jackets, lacewings, mosquito hawks, grasshoppers, crickets—a clambering, flying, leaping, wiggly world of insects playing out their brief lives as one season yields to the next.

It is a curious season—a springtime and fall mixed together. While poison oak provides traditional color with its red and orange foliage, coyote brush blooms. Streams will soon flow again in dry canyons. Big-leaf maples will turn yellow as the first flush of green spreads across the grasslands.

—PHILA WITHERELL, *Editor*

Correction: Mr. Harry Adam's paintings are offered through **Wild Wings** (not West Wings). For the fall catalogue that includes Mr. Adamson's paintings, write Wild Wings, Inc. Lake City, Minnesota 55041.

Bay Area Birds



The Field Observations column will resume with the November *Gull*. All observations should be sent to Mrs. Fry, 57 Rockwood Ct., San Francisco, CA 94127 (731-2874).

FIELD TRIPS FOR OCTOBER

Sunday

October 6 PESCADERO MARSH. Meet at **8:30 A.M.** along Highway 1 at the north end of the bridge at Pescadero Marsh (Pescadero State Beach) about 15 miles south of Half Moon Bay. Leader: Ray Higgs (355-6264). We should see ducks, shorebirds, terns, and American bitterns.

Sunday

October 13 FORT CHRONKITE. Cross the Golden Gate Bridge and exit at Alexander Ave. at the north end of the bridge. Turn left in about $\frac{1}{8}$ miles. Go through tunnel and wait in parking lot at the other end. Meet at **8:00 A.M.** Leader: Aubrey Burns. Expect to see many ducks including the golden-eye and mergansers, scoters, grebes, black-crowned night herons, and possibly a sora rail.

Wednesday

October 16 FORT CHRONKITE as above. Leader: Mrs. Hubert Fry (731-2874).

Sunday

October 20 ANNADELL STATE PARK by bus. First loading at Bellevue and Perkins Sts. on the shore of Lake Merritt, Oakland, leaving at **7:10 A.M.** Second Loading at Grove and Larkin Sts. in front of the Civic Auditorium, San Francisco at **7:30 A.M.** Send \$5.00 payable to GGAS to Pat Triggs, 2038 33rd Ave., San Francisco 94116. Include your telephone number. Bring lunch and be prepared to walk. Leader: Gene Hull (525-6893). This is an unscouted area for October. Come and take your chances. We know that birding in April was great, though.

Saturday

October 26 POINT REYES. Meet at **9:00 A.M.** at the Inverness Store, Inverness (Please park in the far rear). Travel north on Highway 101 past San Rafael to the Lucas Valley exit. Go west, proceed through Nicasio and follow signs to Point Reyes Station. Drive through the town, cross the bridge and immediately turn right on Sir Francis Drake Blvd. Proceed to the Inverness Store. Driving time about $1\frac{1}{2}$ hours. Leader: Aileen Pierson (567-4163). We will see a large variety of shorebirds, loons, grebes, and scoters. We should also see great-horned owls, various hawks, and an occasional osprey.

Sunday

November 3 HEERDT MARSH. A short trip from **9:00 A.M.** to 12 noon. Drive north on Highway 101 just past Corte Madera. Exit on Lucky Drive and immediately turn right. Park near the Golden Gate Trailer Court. We will walk 2 miles out into the marsh on dirt roads. It could be muddy. Leader: Bruce Schotzmman (386-1876). Expect to see shorebirds, ducks, white-tailed kites, short-eared owls, and possibly burrowing owls.

NO LEADER TRIPS. On **October 10** meet at the Little Farm in Tilden Park, Berkeley, at **9:00 A.M.** On **October 23** meet at **9:00 A.M.** at the Chain of Lakes, Golden Gate Park, 43rd and Fulton. Choose your own leader; lunch is optional.

—PAT TRIGGS, *Field Trips Chairman* (664-8502).

From Your President's Stockpile



GETTING BACK TO OUR GRASS ROOTS: It was last summer with the Environmental Workshop group atop Steens Mountain in Eastern Oregon that I got a magnificent view of the peregrine falcon which is represented in the logos. I was back again this August with the same group to explore the geological, biological, and ecological grandeur of the eastern slope of the Cascades. If you too enjoy mini or maxi vacations teaming up with other outdoor enthusiasts under the guidance of specialists to help you interpret a given

area, you might explore some of the following possibilities.

Many of the universities, colleges, and private schools in the West offer such opportunities. Closest to home are the extension divisions of **UC Berkeley** and **Davis** and **San Jose State University**. Also consider **Canada**, **San Mateo**, and **Foothill** colleges and the five member colleges of the **Peralta School District** which list a few evening and weekend offerings. Members of the **California Academy of Sciences** (Golden Gate Park, S.F. 94118) have opportunities for continuing education at minimal cost through weekend seminars and field trips as well as through travel to far away places and to nearby locations. Academy scientists accompany all groups.

DOCENT TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES: Docent training programs are widely available in the Bay Area, for example, through the **Oakland Museum Natural Science Division**, the **Knowland Park** and **San Francisco Zoos** and through **Audubon Canyon Ranch**. A Naturalist Aide class to assist the **Oakland Park and Recreation** Naturalists with school tours will be held on Thursday mornings at 9:30 A.M. at the Rotary Science Center through October (273-3739). If you are interested in mechanics, electronics, graphic arts, biological science, music, working with children, and meeting people, the **Exploratorium**, San Francisco's museum of perception in art and science, would welcome you as a volunteer (563-7337).

GGAS PROGRAMS: Last year GGAS offered approximately 90 field and pelagic trips, some by chartered bus, including some weekend trips. An ornithology course at Albany Adult School was announced in the September Gull. GGAS made the initial overtures to Lawrence Hughes, principal of the Adult School, requesting that such a course be given and worked with Mr. Hughes in setting up the course outline and in the

selection of Paul Kelly as instructor. If this course goes well, we hope to initiate additional field-oriented courses through the Albany Adult School.

MORE ACTIVITIES: Field trips and movies are regularly scheduled at the **Lake Merritt Rotary Science Center** on Saturday and Sunday, many led by Paul Covel, our conservation chairman. If you wish to receive their weekly schedule call 273-3296 or write the Reservation Clerk, 1520 Lakeside Drive, Oakland 94612. The **Environmental Center in Tilden Park** is scheduled to open at the end of October. They plan weekend programs for the public (525-2233).

Three non-profit Bay Area organizations which offer mouth-watering ecologically-oriented work shops and trips are: **Point Reyes Bird Observatory**, Mesa Road, Bolinas, CA 94924; **Nature Expeditions International**, P.O. Box 1173, Los Altos, CA 94022; **Bodega Bay Institute**, P.O. Box 640 K, Bodega Bay, CA 94923. For those who would like field trips focusing on such topics as waterfowl, intertidal life,, pelagic biology, or winter biology at Lassen, send for the Bodega Bay Institute's attractive brochure which list 13 such explorations scheduled during October and November. Out of the Port of Redwood City, pelagic trips are provided for students of all levels by the **Marine Ecological Institute** (364-2760 or 247-0761).

KUDOS TO JOE MORLAN (654-1358) who has shown great expertise in taking over the job of compiler and narrator of our bird alert following Bill Principe's departure from the Bay Area. Joe is expanding the alert to cover the Northern California region and his directions for tracking down rare birds are most explicit. Call 843-2211 for a rare treat.

OPEN HOUSE: We have had requests for an open house at our office. As always, Vera Parasehak welcomes you to drop in during office hours when you are in the area but we will plan to have the coffee pot on and some one to greet you between 12:00 noon and 3:00 P.M., Thursday—Saturday, October 17, 18, and 19. If you would like to volunteer to welcome guests on one of those days, would you please call Vera (843-2222) and volunteer your help?

—G. R. Maehlis, *President*

GIFTS AND BEQUESTS

<i>In memory of:</i>		<i>Gift of:</i>
Joyce Mayhew		Dorothy True Bell
Beatrice Kertis		Dorothy Swenson
		Graee M. Condon
Donn Douglass	Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Boese	
<i>General:</i>		<i>Gift of:</i>
G.G.A.S.		Dr. Phyllis Harroun

The Society welcomes gifts in general or gifts in honor or in memory of relatives and friends. Such gifts will be used as specified by the donor, or if unspecified, at the discretion of the Board. This includes their use for general GGAS activities or for special programs of the Society including Audubon Canyon Ranch of which GGAS is a co-sponsor. Please send your gift in the form of a check made out to the Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc. to Mrs. Robert C. Johnsen, Corresponding Secretary, 4 Del Valle, Orinda, CA 94563. The Society is also appreciative of any bequests. Such bequests should specify as recipient the Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc. All gifts, donations, and bequests will be acknowledged in the GULL as well as personally on behalf of the Society by the Corresponding Secretary.



Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc.
2718 Telegraph Avenue, #206
Berkeley, California 94705
Office: 843-2222
Recorded bird report: 843-2211
Return Postage Guaranteed

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

DATED MATERIAL

Library, California Academy of
Science
Golden Gate Park
San Francisco 18, California 94118

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Office Manager, VERA PARASCHAK, GGAS office; Conservation Hotline Editor, ANNE GREENSFELDER, GGAS office.

Where addresses and telephone numbers are not given after a name these will be found priorly in the roster.

Send address changes to office promptly; Post Office does not forward the *GULL*. Monthly meetings—second Thursday 7:30 P.M. Joint membership — local and national \$15 per year (individual); \$18 (family); includes AUDUBON MAGAZINE and the *GULL*; to join, make checks (no cash) payable to National Audubon Society and send to GGAS office to avoid delay in receiving the *GULL*. Membership renewals should be sent directly to the National Audubon office. Subscriptions to the *GULL* separately \$2 per year. High school and college student membership \$7 per year.

The Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc., was established January 25, 1917 and became a chapter of National Audubon Society in 1948.

The *Gull* deadline is the first of the month for the following month.